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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
First session
31 January-11 February 1994
Agenda item 3

STATUS OF THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Elements for possible inclusion in a text to be adopted by the Preparatory Committee

Note by the Secretariat

The Preparatory Committee, having completed its first substantive session on the preparation of the World Summit for Social Development, expresses its appreciation to the Bureau for its effective role and to the Secretariat for its support.

A

Trust Fund for the World Summit for Social Development

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Notes the establishment by the Secretary-General of the Trust Fund for the World Summit for Social Development in response to General Assembly resolution 47/92 of 16 December 1992, in order to mobilize the voluntary contributions from public and private sources for the financing of the additional activities required by the preparation and holding of the Summit, and for the financing of the participation of the least developed countries in the Summit and its preparatory process;

2. Recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/100 of 20 December 1993, invited all States to contribute generously to the voluntary Trust Fund, and also recalls the request it made at its organizational session,

in decision 4, 1/ that the Fund be brought to the attention of Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as foundations, private enterprises and concerned individuals;

3. Notes that contributions to the Fund have so far been made by three Member States, and expresses its appreciation to them for their support;

4. Reiterates the importance of voluntary contributions for the preparatory process of the World Summit, notably with regard to the participation of the least developed countries;

5. Urges all States and private and public organizations and individuals to contribute to the Trust Fund for the World Summit for Social Development.

B

Seminars, workshops and other activities

The Preparatory Committee, having considered the reports of the two expert groups on social integration and employment held in the Netherlands and in Sweden in September and October 1993, and mindful of the importance of a large debate on the core issues of the World Summit for Social Development, involving decision makers, academics, experts, and members of civilian society, from all regions of the world,

1. Expresses its appreciation of the content of above-mentioned reports and for the generosity of the Government of the Netherlands and the Government of Sweden;

2. Encourages the United Nations, the United Nations system, Member States and other concerned actors in the preparatory process of the Summit to organize seminars, workshops and other expert meetings on issues of direct relevance to the Summit, including the question of the alleviation and reduction of poverty.

C

National arrangements and reports

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Recalls decision 3 on national contributions, adopted at its organizational session 1/ in which it emphasized the desirability of promoting national preparations which could include the establishment of national committees or other arrangements to bring together concerned official agencies and non-governmental bodies, the convening of meetings for public discussion of the core issues, and the preparation of national reports;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 24 (A/48/24), annex II.

2. Also recalls that the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/100, invited all States to set up national committees or other arrangements for the World Summit for Social Development and to hold meetings for public debates on the core issues to be addressed by the Summit;

3. Notes with appreciation that a number of national committees or comparable arrangements are already in place, and urges all States to set up such arrangements as rapidly as possible;

4. Takes note with appreciation of the national reports made available to the Committee at its first session, and encourages the preparation of such reports during the course of 1994.

D

Participation of non-governmental organizations

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Reiterates the importance of the full participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparatory process for the World Summit for Social Development;

2. Stresses that this participation is required at the national level, as well as at the regional and international levels;

3. Recognizes the valuable contribution made by non-governmental organizations at its first session;

4. Encourages all non-governmental organizations to continue to extend their support of and participation in the preparatory process for the Summit, in accordance with established practice;

5. Decides to consider at its second session, in August 1994, the accreditation of additional non-governmental organizations in accordance with the rules for their participation set out in decision 2, adopted at its organizational session. 1/

E

Participation of organizations of the United Nations system

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Welcomes the reports of specialized agencies, programmes and other organizations of the United Nations system and their participation at its first session;

2. Encourages all parts of the United Nations system to continue to contribute to the preparatory process;

3. Stresses the integrated nature of development and the critical role that various institutions, including those having financial responsibilities, should play within their sphere of competence for the successful preparation and follow-up of the World Summit for Social Development;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to facilitate the contribution to the Summit and its preparatory process of all organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental and regional organizations.

F

Research activities

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Reiterates the important role of research, data collection and analysis, and policy prescription to understanding and action regarding the three core issues,

2. Stresses the importance of ensuring the widest possible contribution to preparations for the World Summit for Social Development and its follow-up;

3. Notes the activities undertaken in the context of the preparations for the Summit by research institutes, and encourages the further planning and undertaking of such research activities;

4. Invites Governments to support the activities of research institutes that are of relevance to the preparation and follow-up of the Summit;

5. Invites the Secretary-General to initiate, with the relevant research institutes, the development of a knowledge base for the follow-up to the Summit; this initiative should also help in creating an international network for the sharing of data, experience and ideas on social development;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to utilize, as appropriate, the findings of research activities relevant to the core issues in the documentation to be prepared for the second session of the Preparatory Committee.

G

Public Information

The Preparatory Committee:

1. Recalls its decision 5 1/ concerning public information for the purpose of creating awareness at local, national, regional and international levels of the core issues of the World Summit for Social Development, as well as of its objectives;

2. Notes the programme of public information proposed by the Department of Public Information, the Joint United Nations Information Committees and other bodies;

3. Stresses the importance of a broad programme of public information and the active involvement of the media in bringing the Summit to the attention of a wide audience;

4. Encourages all organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to include references to the Summit and its core issues in their public information activities.